

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

[c01] A method for billing a subscriber for a local toll-free communication comprising:

- receiving information related to an originating number;
- transmitting the originating number information to a network element;
- receiving information related to a terminating number;
- comparing the geographical location of the originating number information to the geographical location of the terminating number information;
- if the comparison is within the same LATA, determining that the communication is the local toll-free communication and routing the originating number to at least one participating local switch serving the terminating number;
- completing the local toll-free communication to the terminating number;
- transmitting a call record to a billing database; and
- billing for the local toll-free communication.

[c02] The method of claim 1, wherein the NPA-NXX of the originating number is compared with the NPA-NXX of the terminating number.

[c03] The method of claim 1, wherein the NPA-NXX-XXXX of the originating number is compared with the NPA-NXX of the terminating number.

[c04] The method of claim 1, wherein the call record contains information for the local toll free communication, the call record comprising at least one of geographic location of the originating number, geographic location of the terminating number, minutes of use, routing, call features, and troubleshooting information.

[c05] The method of claim 1, wherein the participating local switch that processes the local toll-free call completes the associated call record.

[c06] The method of claim 1, wherein multiple local toll-free call records are combined into a billing block.

[c07] The method of claim 1, wherein the originating number comprises a portable telephone number.

[c08] The method of claim 1, wherein the terminating number comprises a portable telephone number.

[c09] The method of claim 1, wherein the terminating number is selected from a plurality of subscriber locations serving the originating number.

[c10] The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interactive subscriber interface, the interactive subscriber interface for accessing and configuring a local toll-free database of at least one terminating number, a geographic location associated with one or more originating numbers, a geographic location associated with the terminating number, a call volume feature, a time of day, and a routing preference.

[c11] A system for routing a telephone call from an originating party who dials a local toll-free call comprising:

means for receiving information related to an originating number;

means for transmitting information associated with the originating number to a network element;

means for receiving information related to a terminating number;

means for comparing the geographical location of the originating number to the geographical location of the terminating number information;

if the comparison is within the same LATA and if there is at least one participating local switch, means for determining that the communication is the local toll-free communication and for routing the originating number to at least one participating local switch serving the terminating number;

means for completing the local toll-free communication to the terminating number;

means for transmitting a call record to a billing database; and

means for billing for the local toll-free communication.

[c12] The system of claim 11, further comprising billing means for producing bills based upon the geographical location of the originating number placed to the local toll-free number.

[c13] The system of claim 11, wherein the routing means is connected by a local network to the subscriber's long distance carrier (IXC).

[c14] The system of claim 11, wherein the originating number further comprises a portable telephone number.

[c15] The system of claim 11 wherein the terminating number is selected from a plurality of geographic locations serving the originating number.

[c16] A method for discriminating among toll-free calls to identify each communication that originates and terminates within a common geographic area in order to bill the communication at a selected rate, the method comprising:

receiving an identifier associated with an origination point in which the communication originates;

determining a destination point associated with the destination to which the communication is directed;

analyzing the origination point and the destination point to determine whether the communication may be routed via a local telecommunications service provider; and

billing the communications routed by a local telecommunications service provider at the selected rate.

[c017] The method of claim 16, wherein the selected rate is derived from a call volume of communications routed via the local telecommunications service provider to the destination point.

[c018] The method of claim 16, wherein the selected rate is derived from a subscription term for participating over an amount of time for communications routed via the local telecommunications service provider to the destination point.